specifying the matters and places in relation to which CRAT may exercise its jurisdiction. Chapter X of the IT Act 2000 provides details on this subject.

(c) to (e) The said Tribunal has not yet been established. It is envisaged to be set-up as and when the need arises.

Grant of internet service providers licences

5291. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(b) the number of companies which were granted Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence in the country as on the 31st March, 2002;

(c) the number of people who have subscribed to internet facility as on the 31st March, 2002;

(d) whether the band-width presently available is sufficient to cater to growing demand of internet traffic in the country;

(e) whether Internet Service Providers have been permitted to obtain band-width from foreign satellites and establish International Gateways for internet traffic; and

(f) if so, the number of companies which have obtained band-width facility and also the extent to which the additional band-width so obtained would ease the traffic demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As on 31st March, 2002, 442 Internet Service Providers (ISP) licences were issued to 375 companies.

(a) As on 31 st March, 2002,161 ISPs had reported start of Internet Service and the number of Internet Subscribers were around 32.3 lakhs.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. Further to increase the availability of International band width for Internet in the country, the Government has permitted ISPs to set-up International Gateways for Internet using foreign satellite and Submarine Cable mediums after taking security clearance. As on date, 20 ISPs have been permitted to commission 45 International Gateways for Internet using foreign satellite.